

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1954 - HB 2079

February 21, 2022

SUMMARY OF BILL: Creates the “Local School District Empowerment Act”.

Authorizes the Department of Education (DOE) to create a pilot program to determine whether the procedures established in this section efficiently enable a county or municipality to establish the office of elected superintendent of schools. Revises powers of a local board of education located in a school system that establishes the office of elected superintendent of schools.

Limits the number of local education agencies (LEA) that may establish the office of elected superintendent to 10 and requires DOE to report to the General Assembly no later than one year after the tenth LEA has established the office of elected superintendent of schools with any recommendations. Authorizes a county or municipality operating a school system to reestablish, or subsequently abolish, the office of elected school superintendent by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership of the county or municipal legislative body. Outlines policies for the dismissal, and appeal of such dismissal, of certain employees of an LEA that does not establish an office of elected superintendent.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact – To the extent a county or municipality elects to reestablish the office of elected school superintendent, and subsequently holds a required special election, the permissive increase in local expenditures is reasonably estimated to exceed \$10,000.

Assumptions:

- DOE, with assistance from the Office of Research and Education Accountability in the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury, will be able to create a pilot program and report to the General Assembly within existing resources. Any state fiscal impact is estimated to be not significant.
- The proposed legislation requires that an ordinance or resolution of a county or municipality operating a school system to reestablish, or subsequently abolish, the office of elected school superintendent by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership of the county or municipal legislative body; however, any such ordinance or resolution is required to be approved in an election provided in the county or municipality.
- Any local government holding a special election would incur one-time expenditures; however, the cost will vary based on the population of the local government holding the special election.

- Based on information provided by the State Division of Elections, a special election costs between \$10,207 for a small county such as Lake County and \$597,022 for Shelby County.
- Based on information provided by the State Division of Elections, a special election costs a municipality between \$8,800 (the city of Luttrell with a population of 1,080) and \$715,000 (the city of Memphis with a population of 646,900).
- The number of local governments that will elect to reestablish, or subsequently abolish, an office of elected school superintendent and subsequently hold a special election is unknown; however, if a local government holds a special election it will result in a permissive increase in local expenditures estimated to exceed \$10,000.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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